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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6566
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2617
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RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1641
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3379
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - SHANGHAI COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION SUMMIT - TOKYO

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top items in Friday morning national papers included worldwide stock-market plunges and the scorching heat wave sweeping Japan.

¶2. "SCO reinforces unity to check US." The business-oriented Nikkei reported from Bishkek, Kyrgyz (8/17): "The leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) adopted Thursday the 'Bishkek Declaration' calling for enhanced unity on the security and energy fronts. The member states are separately holding a joint military exercise in Russia around the same time, with Moscow putting forward the idea of regularizing the drill in order to counter US plans to deploy missile defense platforms in Eastern Europe. The proposal represents Russia's desire to check the US by using the SCO as leverage... Russia had long been asking the other parties that a summit declaration use strong wording to criticize Washington's attempt to deploy MD in East Europe. But, the adopted declaration stopped short of directly criticizing the US due to other members' hesitancy. The fact that remarks made by Chinese President Hu and other leaders in the summit were mostly about economic cooperation signals a difference of views on the future direction of the SCO between Russia and other partners, with the latter camp not being so enthusiastic about Moscow's desire to make the SCO a more militaristic forum."

MESERVE